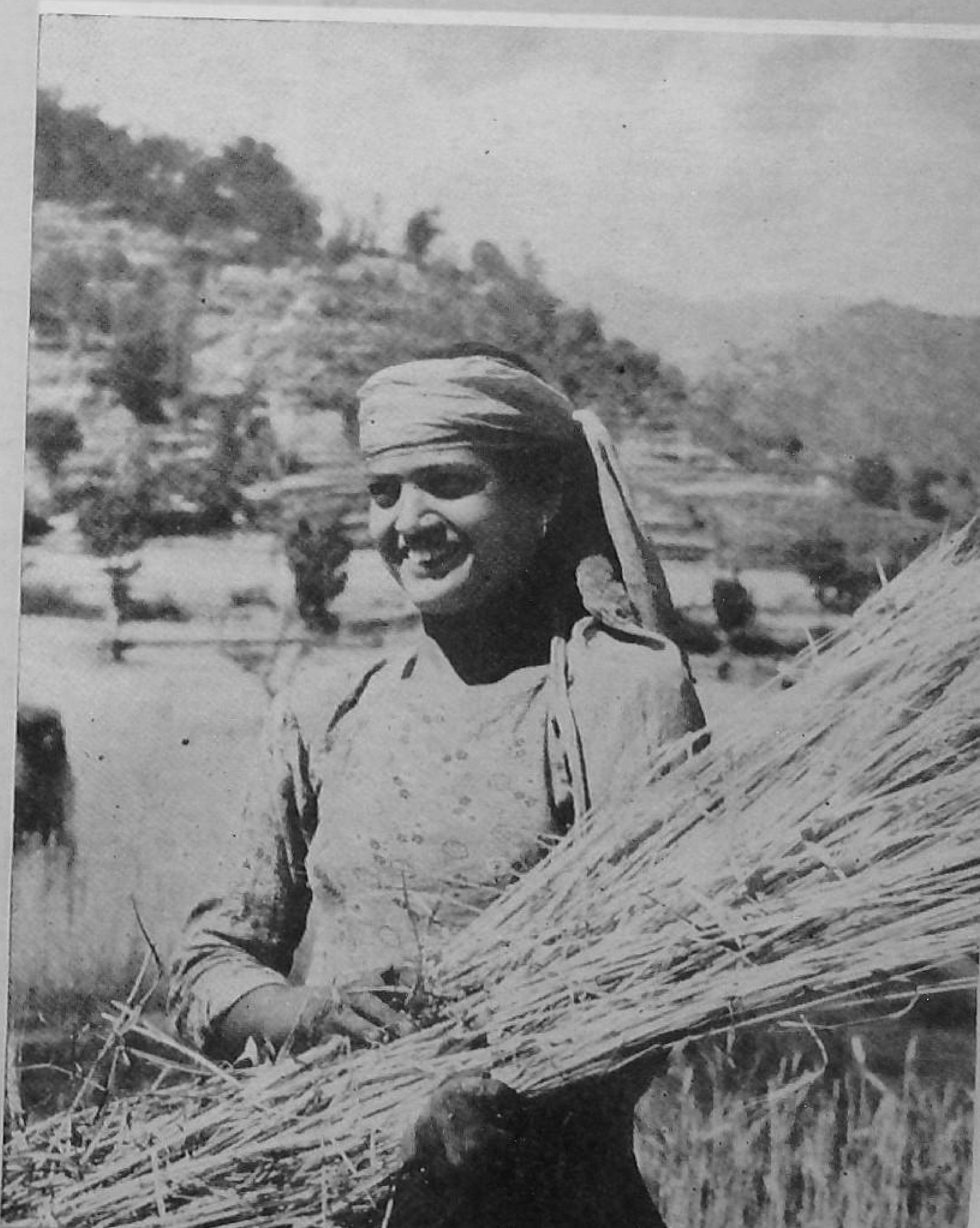
Panchayati Raj

OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL, RURAL EXTENSION
22/2/2

FEBRUARY 1965



A young peasant woman from Sukat Valley, Mandi, with a sheaf of harvested corn. Mandi, where a package programme is under implementation, is about to attain self-sufficiency in food.
(see inside)

Tractors are being used in cultivation at Bichpur village in Uttar Pradesh.

Market day at village Ranapur in Jhabua Community Development Block, Madhya Pradesh. A craftsman is seen selling shoes made by him.

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CONTENTS

LETTERS	
NEW ERA OF PROSPERITY—STORY OF MANDI FARMERS' ACHIEVEMENT ..	2
SUCCESS OF PACKAGE PROGRAMME	5
SANGLI ON THE WAY TO PROSPERITY —SYNTHESIS OF AGRICULTURE AND INDUSTRY—*K. S. Ramamurthi* ..	6
THE HAND THAT ROCKS THE CRADLE RULES THE WORLD	8
A DREAM YET TO BE REALISED ..	10
EADPUR SHOWS THE WAY—HIGH YIELD OF PADDY	11
SERICULTURE IN UTTAR PRADESH ..	12
KONDAPUR—AN EXAMPLE OF SELF-HELP	13
GROWING THREE CROPS FROM SAME LAND	14
FROM HERE AND THERE	15

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LETTERS

VITAL ROLE OF EDUCATION

Sir,

NO DOUBT education plays a vital role in building up a happy and prosperous country. It not only broadens the mental outlook of the people but also makes them conscious of their responsibility to the country. Without this consciousness of the people no country can progress.

In our country where literacy runs at a low level, the need of spreading education at a faster pace has been felt by all. It is all the more necessary as India is pledged to democratic decentralization and to attain this goal she is now undergoing a 'silent revolution'. We may call it a 'revolution' in so far as it implies a fundamental change in outlook and in the socio-political life in the villages, and 'silent' in so far as it does not involve any bloodshed, strain or strife.

Panchayati Raj, which is being gradually introduced all over the country, is certainly the only means of bringing in democratic decentralization. It is indeed heartening to see how the rural people are coming forward to shoulder the burden of administration and to take part in developmental activities.

But the absence of proper education and enlightenment—not in all cases of village leadership though—may, it is feared, lead to misuse of power and thus ultimately defeat the very purpose of Panchayati Raj. I firmly believe that there is nothing wrong inherent in human nature. On the contrary, 'there is more in man than there is in the land' and good people can certainly 'make heaven on earth'.

And herein lies, as I have already pointed out, the importance of education. Proper education will help in making the people rise above mean selfishness and petty conflicts and devote themselves to the cause of the country with a missionary zeal. This would naturally expedite the pace of ushering in a new India, a India free from hunger and want. We will work hard so that our future generation may live better. We should also keep in our mind the words of our great leader Jawaharlal Nehru—"Tomorrow's India will be what we make it by today's labours".

Yours etc.
Subhendu Sarkar
Extension Officer for Panchayats

1-1-65
Alipurduar No. 1
Dev. Block,
Distt. Jalpaiguri,
West Bengal

(*Continued on page* 4)

NEW ERA OF PROSPERITY

Story of Mandi Farmers' Achievement

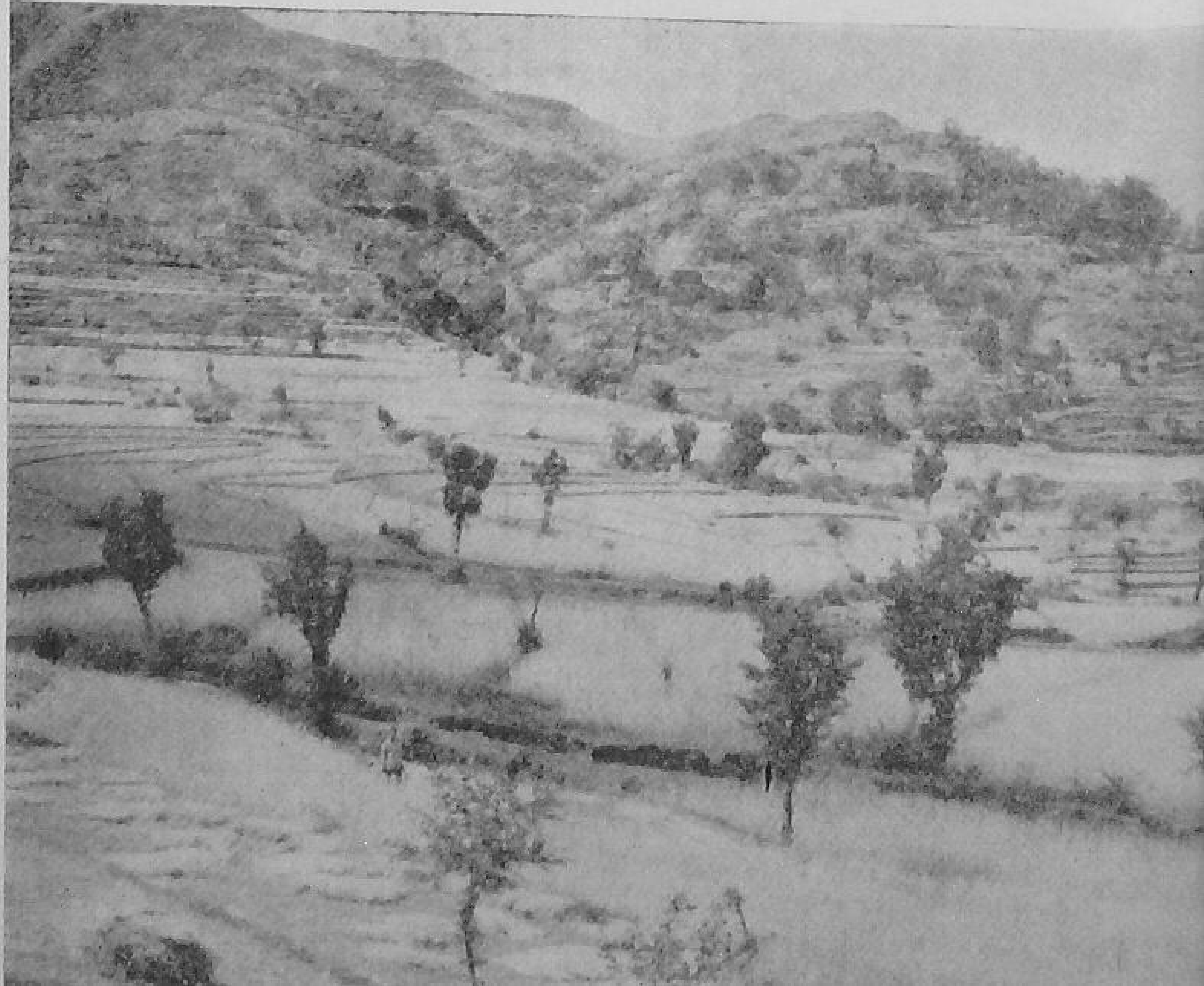
FAR in the northern region, on the slopes of the mighty Himalayas the farm families of four thousand villages in Mandi, a district in Himachal Pradesh, are ushering in a new era of prosperity in their land, so far ravaged by utter poverty.

The high altitude, non-availability of land (hardly two lakh acres—that too are narrow terraces in difficult terrain), lack of finance and supplies required for improved agriculture all barred their way to prosperity. But the strong desire to work for a better tomorrow enabled these sturdy farmers of Mandi to cross over all hurdles. They have proved that given the necessary agricultural inputs and know-how they can convert the rugged terrain into a smiling green.

The opportunity came through the Indo-German Agricultural Project inaugurated on November 14, 1962, with technical and financial assistance from the Federal Republic of Germany to the tune of Rs. 27 lakhs. The Mandi project—an intensive agricultural development programme as is in force in selected districts of other States—aims at mixed farming which includes better crop production, fruit and vegetable development, dairying and cattle improvement, sheep breeding, raising pigs and poultry and development of livestock feeds and fodder. The know-how and guidance, however, are provided by the long experience of the West German experts.

FARM PLANS

Already, more than 11,000 farm plans for individual farmers have been prepared. These plans include the use of recommended improved farm practices, such as the use of improved seeds, manures and fertilizers, taking plant protection measures and employing improved implements.



A view of fertile fields in Mandi

Improved seeds of crops including paddy, hybrid maize and wheat have been supplied to farmers, the hybrid maize seed yielding 1,500 to 1,700 Kgm. per acre.

The use of fertilizers in the district had been at a very low level—hardly 180 tons on an average per year. But today the consumption has considerably gone up—2,055 tons in 1963-64 and 2,426 tons in kharif 1964. Besides, 4,425 demonstration plots for educating the farmers in the proper application of fertilizers in the field have been laid out.

FRUIT AND VEGETABLES

There has been a marked increase in horticultural activities, and the farmers have become conscious of fruit cultivation. So far they have been supplied 30,000 sub-tropical fruit plants and a sum of Rs. 21,000 in the form of loans during 1963-64.

Only a few years ago, not many residents of Mandi district could afford vegetables. The reason was simple. The farmers did not believe that vegetable cultivation could pay, and so hardly any one took to

vegetable growing. The vegetable sellers had to get almost all the vegetables from the Punjab. As the prices were prohibitive and supplies scanty, vegetables were considered as a delicacy for the rich only. With the introduction of the project, things started changing and fast too, and today more and more farmers are taking to vegetable cultivation. Already, large quantities of quality vegetable seeds have been supplied to growers and about 500 acres brought under vegetables. As a result vegetables are now available in plenty and at cheap rates also.

PLANT PROTECTION

Plant protection is also making a good impact. Though pests and diseases have been known to cause a heavy damage to crop yields, the Mandi farmers accepted their appearance as an act of God. They were enduring what they thought was beyond cure.

But the project is bringing about a change. Today, the plant protection programme in the district is growing with every crop. The knowledge, experience and skill of German and Indian agricultural specialists are being brought to bear upon eliminating crop pests and diseases.

SOIL TESTING

"Know your soil on which you toil" is the slogan of the Package Programme in Mandi district. Under the project, soil scientists are having a busy time. For drawing the soil map of a district having two lakh acres of cultivable land, situated at varying altitudes, is no easy task. And yet, soil samples from every acre are being tested. During the kharif of 1964, 1,000 samples have been analysed and recommendations made to cultivators.

IMPROVED IMPLEMENTS

Improved agriculture demands improved implements. And in hilly regions, implements have not only to be good but also to be of a special type to suit the local terrain. That is why improved implements, good elsewhere, have to be tested to find out whether they need any modifications before being introduced in Mandi.

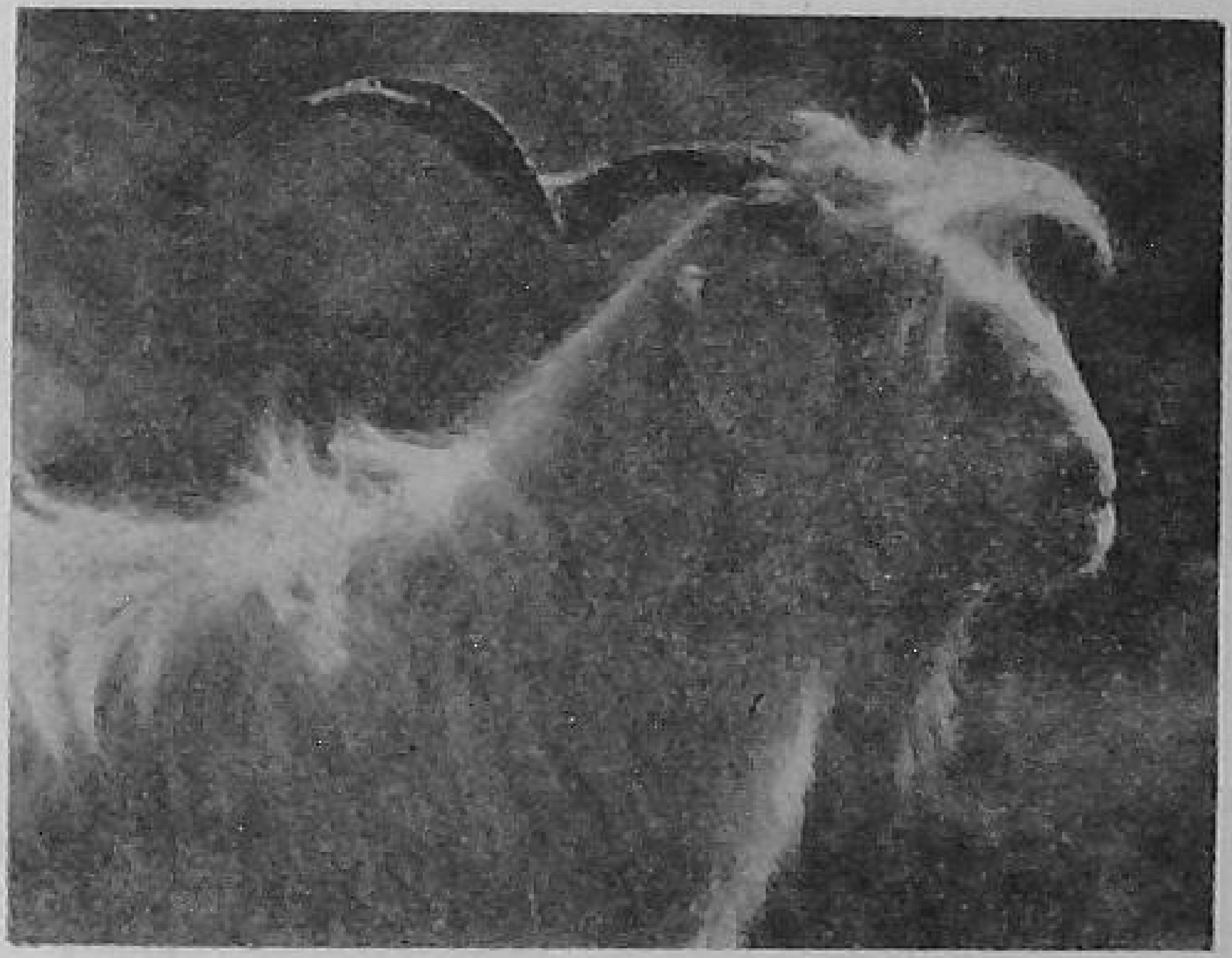
Accordingly, the mould-board plough, the wheel hoe, the paddy weeder, the pruning saw, the simple, duster, sprayer, the maize dibbler, the Sharma hand-hoe, the Olpod thresher, the Singh patella—all these implements are being given a trial in Mandi district. The Government of the Federal Republic of Germany have sent a number of implements which are making the work of Mandi farmers lighter and better.

ANIMAL HUSBANDRY

What the Mandi farmers need is good breed of cattle and an adequate supply of fodder. The Mandi project has answered both these needs. Twenty-five heifers and 8 bulls of German spotted highland breed known for their hardiness and high milk yield have been imported from West Germany to upgrade the local cattle stock.

Poultry keeping is also catching the imagination of farmers. About 3,000 chickens have been distributed.

Pig-breeding is another profit-bearing item in the mixed farming programme. Two piggeries, one in Mandi and other in the Sunder Nagar block, have been started.



A Mandi goat

Better than any words, the fat lambs, with fine wool, roaming the mountain sides in the district tell the story of sheep improvement in these regions. Forty ewes and 10 rams of the German Merine breed have been imported for improving the breed of sheep.

On the winding and steep paths of the hills, the beast of burden is the mule, and yet mules are not available locally. A mule and horse-breeding centre has, therefore, been started in the district.

FODDER DEVELOPMENT

Whatever breed of cattle or sheep one may have, it needs the finest pasture for good growth and milk production. Though there are extensive grazing areas in Mandi, most of them are in bad shape. All these pastures are being improved. Steps are also being taken to raise high-protein fodder crops like berseem, red clovers from Germany and hybrid Napier grass on farmers' fields for feeding their animals.

SOIL CONSERVATION

As in all other hilly regions, soil erosion is a big problem in Mandi too. Every year rains wash away the fertile top soil from thousands of acres. The eroded lands turn into ravines, and the existing ravines became deeper and deeper making the task of soil conservation more difficult every year. A multi-pronged drive has been launched to reclaim the vast lands and prevent new areas from being turned into ravines. A good beginning has thus been made, and the barren tracts are being slowly revived to bear a crop of lush green.

COOPERATIVES

The cooperatives in the district are also being strengthened in order to help the agricultural production programme. Since the start of the project the number of cooperative societies has increased from 194 to 224 and the working capital from Rs. 1.10 million to Rs. 1.64 million. The societies now cover 46 per cent of the rural population as compared to 24 per cent at the start of the project. The amount of short-term credit has increased from Rs. 131,420 to Rs. 628,578 and the total amount of credit from Rs. 294,771 to Rs. 1,025,790. A little over half of the total amount of loans is given in kind such as fertilizers and seeds.

Further, marketing, storage and supply arrangements are being expanded. Among the commodities being handled are potato, maize, wheat and paddy.

Surely, with such a good start Mandi district can look forward with confidence to a prosperous future.

LETTERS

(*Continued from page* 1)

COOPERATION AND CREDIT

Sir,

THE PRIMARY function of the Cooperative Society in India is still to lend money. The credit cooperative is an institution by which people get together to provide themselves jointly with credit and the credit worthiness they do not have individually. As they come from one or a few neighbouring villages, they largely know each other. The condition for joining is the purchase of Service Share capital, so that the Society will have some money to lend and every member will have an interest in it. Extra capital is obtained by taking deposits from outside or borrowing from banks notably Cooperative Banks.

A properly working Cooperative solves all the problems of lending to the smallman. It solves the problem of overheads. The costs of lending and recovering in penury packets are intolerable. It also solves the problem of default by limiting the amount which members may borrow. The members are discouraged to run into debts. Lending for unproductive purposes is similarly frowned upon and limited.

Theoretically the cooperation gives all the advantages that one may wish to have. In practice, however, we come across incidents of the prescribed rules being flagrantly violated. Cooperative Committees lend to their friends money they know will be irrecoverable; money officially lent for productive purposes is spent on ceremonies and jewellery; debtors are not pressed enough while they are still solvent so that their land has to be foreclosed when they become finally insolvent; the poorer people of the village are not allowed to join so that the benefit of the Society can be kept to a limited few. Secretaries are often less than half trained, loans are not always made in time; the village may not have enough men of even elementary education to be able to form an effective committee.

The reasons why a society can go wrong are legion. That is why in India for instance the Societies only provide 3 per cent of all rural credit though in the most advanced districts where the peasants are both businesslike and educated, the figure may rise to 40 per cent. The answer is to bring the worst cooperative societies up to the level of the best. This requires the State assistance. Such dependence on State admittedly goes against all the principles of cooperation which is essentially a movement of self-help. In India, however, experience suggests that if cooperation is to be a primary igniter of development then one cann wait for the peasant to develop the education and the understanding of business and commercial integrity.

Yours etc.

Development Block Malur,
Kolar District,
Mysore

M. Nagappa
Extension Officer (Cooperation)

THIS HAPPENED IN PALARI BLOCK OF RAIPUR DISTRICT

SUCCESS OF PACKAGE PROGRAMME

PALARI Development Block in Raipur district (Madhya Pradesh) is marching towards plenty and prosperity. Concerted efforts are being made by the village people and the Block staff to increase agricultural output under the Package Programme which was introduced in 1961-62.

The block has 132 villages with a cultivated area of over one lakh acres. The Progrmme was launched at 32 villages, and now all the villages of the Block have been covered under it. The programme has changed the very outlook of the farmers and ultimately have led them to the goal of prosperity. At first the villagers were reluctant to use fertilizers and pesticides. A publicity campaign was organised to make them realise the utility of these two vital things through a display of posters, exhibitions, film shows and field demonstration. Gradually the cultivators were convinced of the potentialities of the scheme and with conviction came the strong will for achievement.

The farmers of Palari have crossed a long distance in the last three years. Since the inauguration of the Package Programme in 1961-62, 13,902 big and small agricultural production programmes have been drawn up and implemented. During this period, use of chemical fertilizers more than doubled from 680 tonnes to 1,430 tonnes. The use of green manure also recorded a substantial rise. The use of pesticides increased from 7,687 Kgs to 40,000 Kgs. Eighty-eight acres have been brought under groundnut cultivation for the first time. Improved maize crop has been introduced. With a view to providing timely irrigation facilities to 419 acres of land, sluice gates have been fixed in 19 tanks. Irrigation has been provided for rabi crop to 100 acres in Binori and Balodi villages. About 2,505 acres have been contourbunded.

INSPIRATION FOR OTHERS

Inspired by the success of the Package Programme, all the cultivators of Khartora village have decided to adopt improved agricultural practices on the whole cultivable area. There are 106 farmer families in the village, having 498 acres of paddy fields. Besides long and short term loans being advanced, they have been given 230 bags of urea, 25 bags of ammonium sulphate, 510 bags of superphosphate, 20 quintals of green manure seeds, and 42 kilograms of *agraon* for seed treatment.

PISCICULTURE

Commendable progress has been made in the Block in other fields too. About 84,000 fish seeds were deposited during the period in different tanks for pisciculture. Over 3,100 young chickens were supplied. Thirty-two poultry sheds were constructed in two villages, Girru and Sindhora. With a view to improving cattle breed all calves of local breed were castrated and 34 bulls of improved breed were supplied. Seven she-goats of Samunpuri breed and a goat were also given to cultivators. Seventeen Yorkshire breed pigs were distributed and 88 issues of these pigs have been supplied to different blocks. A campaign to eradicate rinderpest was organised in the block and all cattle were inoculated against this disease.

WELFARE ACTIVITIES

Besides, 20 drinking water wells, 10 school buildings and two recreation centres have been completed. Construction work on 80 wells and 7 school buildings is in progress. Two nallahs are being bunded for irrigation. Eighteen historic tanks and 30 irrigation tanks were renovated with people's cooperation.

PEOPLE'S CONTRIBUTION

Since the launching of package programme in the block, the Government have spent Rs. 5,48,581 on different development works. The local people have contributed Rs. 5,52,782.

The villages Sasha and Rusmi were declared the best villages during 1962-63.

PAWANI

At another village Pawani of the Raipur Development Block the average production of paddy in the village has increased from 15 mds. per acre to 30 mds. per acre with the adoption of package programme. The entire one thousand acres of fields of the village yielded an excellent paddy crop. The villagers have contributed over Rs. 70,000 in cash and kind for village development works like school building, bunding of nallah, panchayat and information centre, road and culvert, sanitary well, handpump etc. Poultry farming and pisciculture have also been adopted in the village. There is a genuine desire amongst the cultivators to improve their economic condition.

SANGLI ON THE WAY TO PROSPERITY

synthesis of agriculture and industry

K. S. RAMAMURTHI

TRAVELLING by rail from Poona to Sangli, deep into heart of Maharashtra, one has only to keep one's eyes and ears wide open to understand the transformation that has taken place. On either side of the carriage window are thick crops of sugarcane. Around and away one sees chimney belching smoke or huge machines glistening in the sun.

Six years ago Sangli was not what it is today. The people of the district are working hard to change through cooperation and community development, their standard of life. No longer do they want to depend on agriculture alone for living. They have realised that for a better income from the field the raw material produced by them must be used in industrial undertakings run by them and them alone.

This realisation of the Sangli farmers found a concrete shape when the *Shetkari Sahakari Sakhar Karkhana* was built with a crushing capacity of 1,000 tons of sugarcane a day. A chain reaction soon began. To ensure the supply of sufficient sugarcane, the factory put through about five dozen cooperative lift irrigation societies costing 90 lakhs of rupees. This brought some twenty-three thousand acres of land under irrigation of which 7,500 acres are under sugarcane. The capital cost of these lifts is about five hundred to eight hundred rupees for an acre, but it assures an yearly out-turn of two thousand rupees a year. The schemes are financed by the factory. The farmers are required to contribute for the erection and maintenance of the pumps, which are all operated by power. The water is distributed through cement pipes. The factory found that it was difficult to obtain adequate supplies of cement pipes from private industry. Hence a factory was built to make the pipes.

CHAIN REACTION

As part of the chain reaction a distillery came up. The molasses produced by the factory as a by-product was wasted. Three cooperative sugar factories in the area joined hands to build the distillery which produces ten lakh gallons of industrial alcohol. The capacity of the distillery is just enough to consume all the molasses produced by the three factories. The cooperative workers in the district hope that, in the near future, a chemical industry may come up, using industrial alcohol as the base.

Bagasse is another by-product of sugar manufacture. It is now burnt as fuel. Four cooperative sugar factories in the districts of Sangli, Kolhapur and Satara have joined together in a new venture—a newsprint plant with capacity sufficient to consume the bagasse produced by the four factories. Representatives of these factories recently toured eleven countries to study the paper industry in all its aspects.

Yet another example of one processing factor giving birth to another processing cooperative is the solvent extraction plant. This emerged because member cane-growers of the sugar factory wanted fresh and quality decilcakes as an organic manure. It is a federal processing cooperative formed by thirty cooperative oil mills. Ten are ready. Twenty are under erection.

MORE EMPLOYMENT

The oil mills also give employment to a large number of landless labourers in their own villages. This helps in reducing overcrowding in urban areas. Furthermore, there are many villages which can be reached only with difficulty. Transportation of large quantities of groundnut is a problem. Hence the organisers decided to take the oil mills to the villages where the groundnut is grown. Transporting the small quantity of oil cake from these villages to the centrally located solvent plant is comparatively simple.

Such a venture also helps build new cooperative loyalty and cooperative discipline in remote areas.

The share-holding of the producer-member is linked with his groundnut acreage. Each member is obliged to supply groundnut crop, in proportion to his holding of shares. Each oil mill covers a crop on about three to four thousand acres depending on the yield. The capacity of each mill is just enough to take in the groundnut production of the village or villages served by it. The capacity of the solvent extraction plant is the quantity of oil cake produced by the thirty oil mills. Oil cake contains eight per cent oil. The

plant extracts this oil and produces as by-product D-cake which is a valuable manure for sugarcane crop. It does not work at its full capacity at present since all the thirty mills have not gone into production.

The system of self-feeding of oil mills and the solvent extraction plant works perfectly. There is an assured market for the groundnut. The price is fixed by the Society. It is uniform throughout the season. The farmer is not exposed to the hazards of market fluctuations.

The leaders of the cooperative movement in the district plan to set up a number of related industries such as a margarine plant, a plant to split fatty acids, a glycerine soap factory, a plant to manufacture poultry feed and so on. The solvent extraction plant with its attached mills is a great boon to groundnut growers who are people of small means. The project covers about one lakh twenty thousand acres of land under groundnut grown by some forty thousand agricultural families.

SPINNING MILL

Another effect of the chain reaction is the cooperative spinning mill. For better growth of sugarcane it has to be grown in rotation. Therefore in the gap years it is useful to grow cotton. The sugar factory took the lead and cotton is now grown in some areas. In a short time some fifty thousand acres under sugarcane will also be growing cotton in rotation. For processing this cotton, 85 thousand spindles will be required. The producers of cotton are being organised into cooperative spinning mills.

Yet one more. The growing agro-industrial complex of the district needs a variety of engineering parts, machinery, equipment and repair facilities. This is the genesis of the large cooperative industrial estate. It is adjacent to the sugar factory, the distillery and the solvent extraction plant and has brought under one roof about three hundred factory units, comprising rerolling units, forging plant, engineering workshops, foundries and fabrication units. It produces a wide range of machinery parts besides small items like nail wires, screws and barbed wire. There is an Industrial Training Institute providing training facilities to the artisans.

Eightyfive per cent of the people of Sangli live in villages and there is not enough land to go round. The sugar factory which is the prime mover of the entire cooperative effort, realised that in order to raise living standards there should be a number of rural industries not just one or two. A cooperative poultry society has been organised, called the Sangli Kombadi Palan Sahakari Sangh. It covers about eight villages. The scheme is divided into two parts, one central institute and about seven hundred small units each having about one thousand birds. The Central Institute rears the birds and supplies them to the units. Poultry feed is also supplied to the farmers. The Central Institute collects the eggs from the units and markets them. It does not yet have a cold storage plant. It plans to get one.

Each farmer contributes two thousand rupees and is given the birds, poultry feed and medical aid. His only function is to take care of the birds. There is a kind of insurance. If a bird dies it is replaced by the Society free of cost. A small insurance fee is charged. Each family earns about one hundred and fifty rupees a month from the poultry farm.

The advancement is not merely material. Every illiterate person in the district between the ages of fourteen and fifty is put through a three-month course of adult education. At the end of the course the villagers gather and the neo-literates are initiated into the world of knowledge. They light the "GNANA DVIP" which in Marathi means the Light of Knowledge. No doubt the district is a vast laboratory for social and economic experiments.

(*Courtesy* : *A.I.R.*)

Cooperation—a means to happiness

Smt. Pushpa Devi

Smt. Prabhat Kumari Samyul

Smt. Tara

THE HAND THAT ROCKS THE

Smt. Parwati

How many have heard of Bhuibandh village ? An obscure village in Sohagpur block of Shahdol district in Madhya Pradesh, Bhuibandh hit the headlines when in the recent panchayat elections, "Eve" came into power to rule the village panchayat. The remarkable feature of the election is that all the seats were won without a contest and there were no rivals—men or women.

Bhuibandh perhaps has preferred, for a change, the delicate feminine touch for its development and administration. The hands that run efficiently individual homes will undoubtedly run the big home of the community with equal earnestness and tenderness. It goes to the credit of the elected panches that they have

Smt. Munni Bai

Smt. Lakshmi Bai

Smt. Keshar Bai

ı Devi

Smt. Champa Rani

Smt. Ratna Bai

E CRADLE RULES THE WORLD

not remained satisfied with only their own home, keeping themselves dissociated from the outside world. They have come forward to bear the burden of Panchayati Raj, they have come forward to claim their rightful place in society.

The women of Bhuibandh have followed the high tradition of Indian women—of courage, sense of responsibility and the spirit of sacrifice for the cause of the country and the people.

We wish the new Panchayat of Bhuibandh every success and its people continued prosperity.

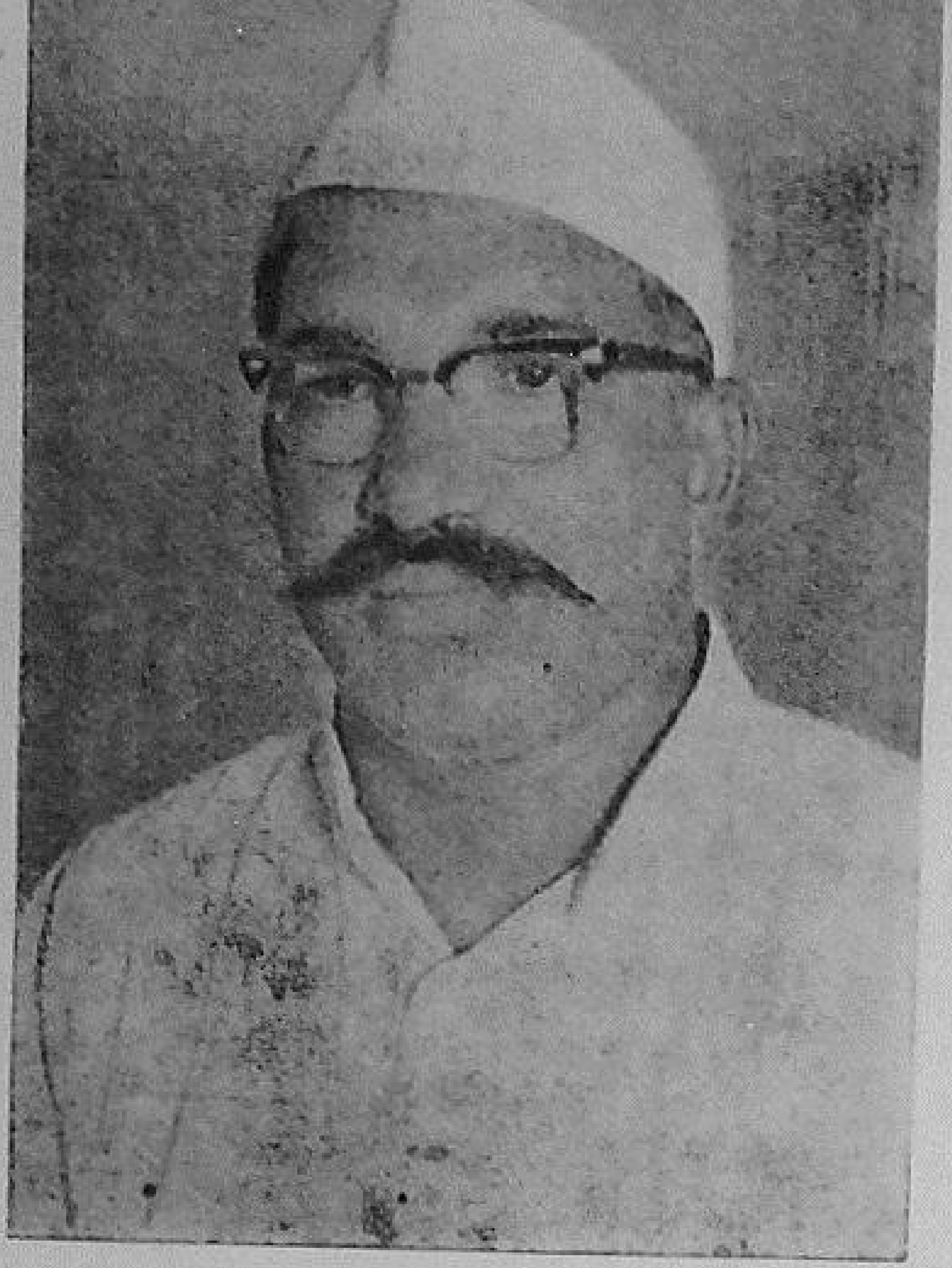
Here we present 13 of the 15 elected panches of Bhuibandh Panchayat.

Smt. Lalita Rani

Smt. Mira Bai

Smt. Phulmat Bai

Smt. Ram Bai



A DREAM YET TO BE REALISED

Interview with Baburao Patil

"IT WAS not the desire to win the first prize but an intuition that inspired me to grow more crop in my fields—as a humble effort to meet the grave challenge of food shortage that my country faces today," said Shri Baburao Sukhadeo Patil most politely when I interviewed him recently.

Shri Patil, who has been adjudged the best wheat grower in Maharashtra by the State Government, has succeeded in growing 25 Quintals and 27 Kilograms of wheat per acre.

Resident of Bijorse village in Baglan Taluk of Nasik District, Shri Patil has inherited the agricultural skill from his father who was also a renowned farmer. Shri Patil, incidentally, is also a good wrestler. "Sturdy body is the first requisite for a farmer," he said smilingly.

When I asked him about the method used by him to grow such a large quantity of wheat, which fetched him the first prize for the year 1963-64, Shri Patil described the method at length without hesitation or reluctance. He hoped that his method would be adopted by his fellow-men in the interest of the country.

HIS TECHNIQUE

For this competition, Shri Patil ploughed the soil five times with a wooden plough and harrowing was done twice. He had put 20 cart loads of farmyard manure in the soil in the previous year. He used N-917 wheat seed for sowing and seed drill was done at a distance of every 10 inches. Sowing was done in the first week of November. He did not use chemical fertilizers, as sugarcane crop was taken on the same soil in the year prior to sowing wheat. (For this sugarcane crop 400 Kgs Super Phosphate, 120 Kgs Urea, 200 Kgs Ammonia Sulphate and 350 Kgs Ground nut oil cakes were used). The crop was irrigated in nine rotations with a gap of ten days (on an average) between each rotation.

Hoeing of crop was done twice and weeding was done once. Sulpher and BHC were spread simultaneously as insecticides at the rate of twenty-five lbs. per acre. Zinc phosphide was used to keep rats away. The entire crop was well looked after.

When I asked him about the methods of keeping the soil fertile, Shri Patil said that as he was a wrestler he knew well how to keep the body healthy, and at the same time being a farmer, he took equal pains to keep his soil healthy.

"It is my ambition to win a prize at an all-India level competition for sugarcane cultivation," he concluded.

I saw cotton and sugarcane crop grown in his field which were in the best condition. I wished him success with all my heart.

Shri Patil at work in his field

EADPUR SHOWS THE WAY

High Yield of Paddy

IF ONE happens to trade the kutcha road running through Tirol Anchal (region) which comprises fifteen villages adjacent to the north of Arambagh town (Hoogly district) in West Bengal, during the paddy season, he will surely be struck by the lush green fields on both sides of the road stretching as far as the distant horizon. And, if he comes across a peasant and cares to ask him about the yield of paddy per acre in the area he would meet with a proud reply that there is hardly an acre in that vast green which does not produce more than 40 maunds of paddy.

And this claim is not baseless. The soil of the region and the concerted effort of the children of the soil have blessed villages like Eadpur, Golta, Maigram, Tirol and Puin with plenty. Eadpur and Golta, however, have scored over other villages in production. The average out-turn of paddy at Eadpur is as high as 42.5 maunds per acre. Two farmers of this village recently hit the headline with a record production of over 80 maunds per acre.

The story behind this wonderful achievement of Eadpur lies in the use of fertilizers in a greater amount, better methods of cultivaton and social structure and village leadership.

THE AWAKENING

The eagerness to grow more—more than others are producing—and a determination to free India from want have come all over the country in the wake of the Community Development programme. A new leadership is emerging in the villages and net values and ideas are percolating into some of our village folk.

THE ACHIEVEMENT

The farmers of Eadpur have stepped forward. They have already earned a place of honour as one of best producers of rice.

The tillers of Eadpur, who are ugra-kshatriyas and essentially cultivators as a class, have not kept their windows shut. Under a new leadership they have resorted *en masse* to modern methods of cultivation. They make conscious efforts to increase their production. During the last few years fallow and waste land have been brought under the plough.

The land is ploughed early and cultural operations are undertaken at the right time. Weeding is done extensively and plant protection measures are taken. The farmers of Eadpur grow about twelve varieties of rice crop and the seeds used are mostly home-grown.

Moreover, fertilizers are used in heavy doses. Besides, farmyard manure, Sulphate of ammonia, bone meal, oilcake and fertilizer mixture are judiciously used.

The farmers of Eadpur have shown what right leadership and concerted efforts can achieve. If the performance of Eadpur can be repeated in some thousands of villages elsewhere, there will be no food problem in the country.

Cocoons are being graded

SERICULTURE IN UTTAR PRADESH

SILKWORM breeding or sericulture as it is technically and popularly known is a poor man's industry. With a very little investment a good return can always be obtained.

Uttar Pradesh, where sericulture was almost unknown about a decade ago, has now secured an important place on the sericulture map of the country, particularly for quality. The State has developed the most modern and scientific set-up on a pattern very close to the Japanese, the ace silk producers in the world. Seed eggs from Uttar Pradesh are now being sent to other States like Madhya Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh and Kashmir. A sample consignment was sent to Burma even.

MASTER SPINNER

A small worm with a very short life—45 days—spins that lustrous fibre which goes into the pure silk tissue. The silk worm, as it is known, is capable of producing 500 yards of fine raw silk and laying down 400 to 500 eggs for its multiplication. The silkworm thrives on mulberry leaves which it consumes in unbelievable quantity. A full grown larva weighs 12,000 times the newly hatched one and the amount of consumption of leaves is 30,000 times its own weight.

CENTRES OF PRODUCTION

Dehra Dun district in Uttar Pradesh is the nursery of sericulture. As bulk of silk-cocoons comes from this district a central silk farm with all important technical sections has been established there at a place called Premnagar. Mulberry Nurseries Chawki centres, demonstration farms, seed farms, etc. are located in this district as also in Naini Tal, Saharanpur and Etwah districts. The industry is practised on a modest scale in the districts of Gorakhpur, Rampur, Almora, Tehri and Pauri also.

The central silk farm at Premnagar, which operates on the latest techniques as suggested by the Japanese teams of sericulture experts, has become a show piece in the rearing and multiplication of pure and disease free silkworms. A special incubation chamber with devices to regulate temperature and humidity has been installed at the farm for mass incubation up to 5,000 ounces.

Uttar Pradesh is producing 2.50 lakh pounds of cocoons annually in its two main crops ensuring a subsidiary income to about 2,000 rearers. The production is expected to be doubled within a couple of years as a result of the introduction of sericulture in hill and border areas promising excellent scope. Unlike other States, Uttar Pradesh supplies the entire seed free of cost in the form of early stage silkworms instead of the conventional eggs.

The State has also started producing high grade raw silk for this purpose. A modern filature with 30 basins has been set up. With a capacity to consume the bulk of cocoon production in the State, this filature has solved the problem of marketing the harvested cocoons which used to be previously sold at Malda on low prices.

Silk yarn being reeled in a filature unit

Cardboard honey combs are used for cocoon formation

Finished silk yarn ready for weaving

COOPERATIVE SOCIETIES

Still a virgin area for sericulture the State is fostering the industry at all levels from mulberry plantation to production of raw silk with the ultimate aim of entrusting it to cooperatives which are coming up rapidly.

There are 36 cooperative societies in the State catering to various needs of silkworm rearers. The apex body, known as the U.P. Resham Audyogik Sahkari Sangh, collects and markets the entire produce of cocoons and pays a commission of 10 per cent to societies. The State Government also allow a subsidy of 80 Paise per kilogram on cocoon.

The development of sericulture in so short a span of time is the unique example of the ability of Indian workers, who given the chance, proper guidance and equipment can always vie with the best workers in any field anywhere in the world.

KONDAPUR—AN EXAMPLE OF SELF-HELP

THIS is the story of an obscure village down in the south—a village called Kondapur in Ghandawa Block of Mahboobnagar in Andhra Pradesh. The village came to lime light one day when its inhabitants rose as one to tell the world that self-help is the best help—to show that the ideal of Panchayati Raj is to make people stand on their feet.

Kondapur is a lonely village, surrounded on all sides by hillocks. One has to go right across a beautiful medium sized irrigation project Koilsagar to reach this village, which is about three miles from the right bank canal of the project.

The village, which depends entirely on small tanks dotting all around for its supply of drinking water as well as water for irrigation, suffered a grievous loss when one tank was breached some years ago. A considerable stretch of land which used to depend on this tank for irrigation became parched and dry.

As it usually happens, the people of Kondapur thought that the repair of the tank was the responsibility of the Government. So they waited and left the tank unrepaired even though it adversely affected agricultural production.

One day some of the elders of Kondapur village gathered at a meeting convened by the Dalapathis and members of the Village Volunteer Force. The purpose of the meeting was to explain to the village people the immediate need of increasing farm output. They

were told that more production was a national duty. The Block Development Officer, who was present at the meeting, pointed out that immediate increase in the output of food could be attained only by repairing all the breached tanks in the area.

One of the cultivators immediately got up and said that Kondapur had one such tank and its repair would immediately bring 50 acres of land under cultivation. He also made it clear that the repair could be undertaken if labour, stone and sand were available. This brought forth a spontaneous offer from another cultivator who said he was prepared to supply stone free of cost if his fellow-villagers and Dalapathis agreed to undertake the repair of the breached tank.

The meeting, in fact, proved to be the turning point in the attitude of the people of Kondapur. Their lethargy and indifference disappeared and the whole village throbbed with a new determination and growing self-confidence. For eight days the men and women, numbering over 200, braved the scorching sun of summer and laboured tirelessly to repair the tank. They did not stop there; but raised a bund across the narrow Vagu stream which carries rain water into the tank for storage.

Now the villagers of Kondapur take pride in their achievement. They have shown the way. Their work has appealed to the imagination of the people of the other villages of Ghandawa Block, who are not slow in following the example set by Kondapur. In another village, members of the Volunteer Force, led by the Panchayat, took up the work of restoration of all breached tanks and contributed labour worth Rs. 3,000.

Today one finds in the villages of Mahboobnagar district that the people have realised that to make things move all they need are a strong will and their trusted friend 'good sweet right hand'. Kondapur has shown that development programmes can be successfully and speedily implemented everywhere with the warmth and good will of the Community.

GROWING THREE CROPS FROM SAME LAND

divisional commissioner sets example

How ordinary land can yield three crops in a year, has been demonstrated by Shri V. S. C. Bonarjee, Divisional Commissioner for Burdwan in West Bengal. He is now advising the cultivators to follow the same pattern "not only for enhancing national agricultural production, but also for increasing farmers' own income".

Last winter, Shri Bonarjee brought under the plough a very ordinary plot of land lying within the premises of his Bungalow at Chinsurah in Hoogly district and divided it into four equal plots of one *cottah* each for raising three crops on an experimental basis.

In the first plot of land sowing started in November 1963, and potatoes and pumkins were grown. These were followed by jute (capsularies) and paddy of *Badshabhog* variety was grown as the third crop.

In the second plot, winter vegetables, for example, cabbage, cauliflower and tomatoes were grown as the first crop. These were followed by jute (olitories) and *Dhaincha*. Early Aman paddy of *Badkalamkati*—65, variety was grown thereafter.

In the third plot, wheat was grown as the first crop. Broadcasted *Dular Aus* variety of paddy was the second and transplanted *Ashkata* variety of paddy was grown as the third crop.

In the fourth plot, gram was the first crop, broadcasted *Aus* variety of *Satika* paddy was the second crop and "NC 1626" variety of transplanted Aus paddy was grown as the third crop.

The harvest of all the three varieties of paddy in the last three plots of lands started on November 5, 1964. While Shri Bonarjee reaped the harvest and on many occasions sowed or planted the crops himself, the officials of the District Agriculture Department, Hoogly, rendered all possible help and cooperation.

FROM HERE AND THERE

BEST VILLAGE AND BEST GRAM SEVAK

AHRAK of the Pindra block in the Varanasi district, Uttar Pradesh, has been adjudged as the best village and Shri C. D. Kandpal of the Ramgarh block of Naini Tal district as the best Gram Sevak for the year 1963-64 in the Development Prize Competition at the State level.

The second prize went to Shri Bhoopal Singh, Gram Sevak of the Naugaon block of Uttarkashi district. The third position was jointly secured by Shri Chhedi Ram Shukla, Gram Sevak of the Purebazar block of Faizabad district and Shri Pratap Singh, Gram Sevak of the Kanalichina block of Pithoragarh district.

CRASH PROGRAMME OF MINOR IRRIGATION

THE GOVERNMENT of India have agreed to give an additional loan of Rs. two crores for the crash programme of minor irrigation which had been launched in the selected blocks of eight eastern districts of Uttar Pradesh. This brings the total financial assistance given by the Union Government for the purpose to Rs. 3.30 crores.

The eight districts where the crash programme of minor irrigation had been launched in April last year are; Allahabad, Basti, Gorakhpur, Sultanpur, Faizabad, Gonda, Baharaich and Ballia.

Under the crash programme, up to the end of October last 2,191 new masonry well had been constructed and 1,134 were in various stages of construction. Improvement by boring had been effected in 303 wells while work was in progress in 91 wells. Lifting devices such as Persian wheels and pumping sets had been installed over 274 wells while they were being installed in 35 wells. In addition, 53 private tubewells had been constructed while construction of 43 tubewells was in progress.

INTENSIFICATION OF FISH CULTURE

TO INTENSIFY fisheries work at Block level, the Government of Uttar Pradesh have decided to establish one fish farm each in 65 Blocks having 100 or more acres of waters, in 19 districts of the State, under the crash programme. The scheme is estimated to cost Rs. 16,43,300 during the current and the next financial years.

Of the 65 Blocks, 25 will be taken up during the current financial year and the remaining 40 during 1965-66, bringing in all 2,500 acres of water area under fish culture, which will be stocked with 50 lakh fingerlings. It has also been decided to take up induced breeding work in three districts where number of blocks are more and seed collection sources are sufficient. One induced breeding unit will be set up in each one of them. A sum of Rs. 7,500 has been sanctioned for purchasing equipment etc. for these units.

It is expected that the implementation of the scheme will result in an annual production of 625 tonnes of fish during 1967-68 and 2,000 tonnes annually from 1968-69 onwards.

A WOMAN'S PREFERENCE

SMT. VIRMATI of village Athai in district Muzaffarnagar of Uttar Pradesh has preferred Defence Certificates for all her ornaments worth Rs. 2,500.

The woman was so much impressed by the benefits of the small savings scheme that she sold all her ornaments and invested the money in the Defence Deposit Certificates. Her husband, Shri Chandra Pal Singh, also deposited Rs. 7,500 in his own name and opened a post office savings bank account in favour of every member of his family.

AGRICULTURAL DEGREES FOR V.L.Ws

THE VILLAGE Level Workers in Punjab will now get a chance to be admitted to B. Sc. (Agriculture) course of Punjab Agricultural University. The V.L.Ws have been exempted from certain courses of instruction in view of their experience in the field. This reduces the period of instruction for them in the college from four to three years. For the present, 100 students are to be admitted—50 each at Ludhiana and Hissar. The Commissioner for Agricultural Production has been requested to name suitable V.L.Ws for admission who should be under 35 years of age and at least second class matriculates.

Of the 2,370 V.L.Ws working in the State, 21 are intermediates and graduates, about 400 under-matrics and the remaining matriculates. The course is envisaged to raise the educational standard of these V.L.Ws to the level of agricultural graduates in course of time.

LOAN FOR PURCHASE OF COOP. SHARES

THE FATEHPUR Panchayat Samiti in Sikar district in Rajasthan has sanctioned Rs. 2,500 for disbursement as loan to poor people to enable them to purchase shares of cooperative societies. This will, no doubt, give an impetus to the cooperative movement in the Samiti area.

According to the latest information available, as many as 8,98,660 rural families out of 30 lakh families in Rajasthan have been brought under cooperative fold. The cooperative societies in the State which number 21,610 have 12,68,751 members.

CROP PROTECTION BY YOUTHS

YOUTH CLUB at Kadipur in Ahmedabad district of Gujarat State has voluntarily taken upon itself the responsibility of protecting the crops of village farmers from theft or damage by stray cattle.

The farmers of the village willingly contribute a small amount to the Club for the service it renders.

The Club has 52 members on its register and they keep a constant watch on the standing crops, by rotation.

In case, there occurs some damage to crops by stray cattle despite the watch, the village elders assess the extent of the damage and fix up its worth, which is paid in cash to the farmer of the field by the Youth Club on the spot.

HELP TO HARIJAN CULTIVATORS

THE VILLAGE people of Kumbharia in Gujarat State have set noble example of cooperation by offering all help to Harijan families in cultivating their fields.

Kumbharia is a small village in Bhavnagar district of the State. According to a scheme Government's land can be granted to harijans for cultivation. When some of the local harijans applied for land the village Panchayat promptly arranged for such grant.

The harijan families got the land but they had no means to utilise it. They did not have agricultural implements nor the seed to sow. The people of the village came to the rescue of the harijan families. They tilled the land with the help of their own bullocks and implements and also supplied seeds to the harijans.

FATHER OF GROUNDNUT FARMING

RECENTLY Abad Dhoraji, a small village 56 miles from Rajkot in Gujarat, became a place of pilgrimage to all the farmers of the State. They collected at that small village to pay their grateful homage to Padma Nathubai Kalaria, whose portrait was unveiled.

Shri Kalaria, widely known as *Mungfalina Bapu* (Father of groundnut farming), introduced groundnut farming in the State and played a great role in making it popular. Today in Saurashtra alone about eighty per cent of land is under groundnut cultivation.

He was born fifty-six years ago in the village of Pepria near Rajkot. The remarkable thing about this pioneering farmer is that he brought groundnut all the way from Madras down south and introduced in a State where groundnut cultivation was unknown.

This season the groundnut crop in Gujarat is excellent and is estimated to yield a record revenue of one hundred crores of rupees.

PACKAGE PROGRAMME FOR MORE GROUNDNUTS

THE GOVERNMENT of Maharashtra has sanctioned an amount of Rs. 21,170 for package programme for groundnut in Ratnagiri district for the current financial year. The estimated expenditure for this scheme for two years would be Rs. 1,92,625.

In the Ratnagiri district the lands towards the coast are flat and fertile but the uplands of lateritic origin known locally as *Varkas* are generally light and poor and are capable of supporting growth of hill millets like Nagli, which yields three to four maunds of grain per acre. *Varkas* have now been proved to be good for groundnut.

The main object of Package Programme for groundnut in Ratnagiri district is to introduce Kopergaon No. 1 groundnut on *Varkas* lands and to popularise manuring of groundnut. To make the programme successful assistance both in cash and kind will be given by the Government.

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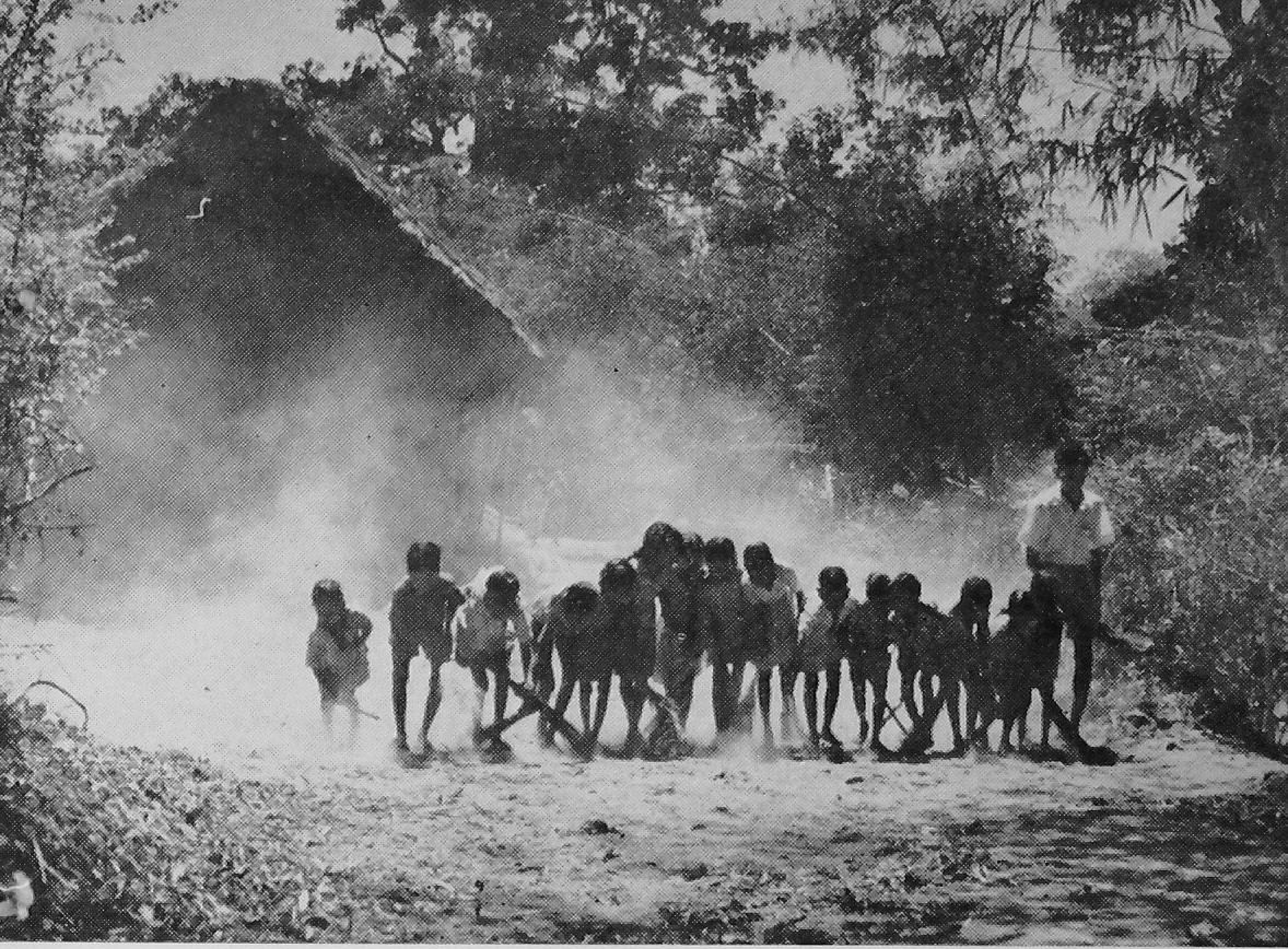
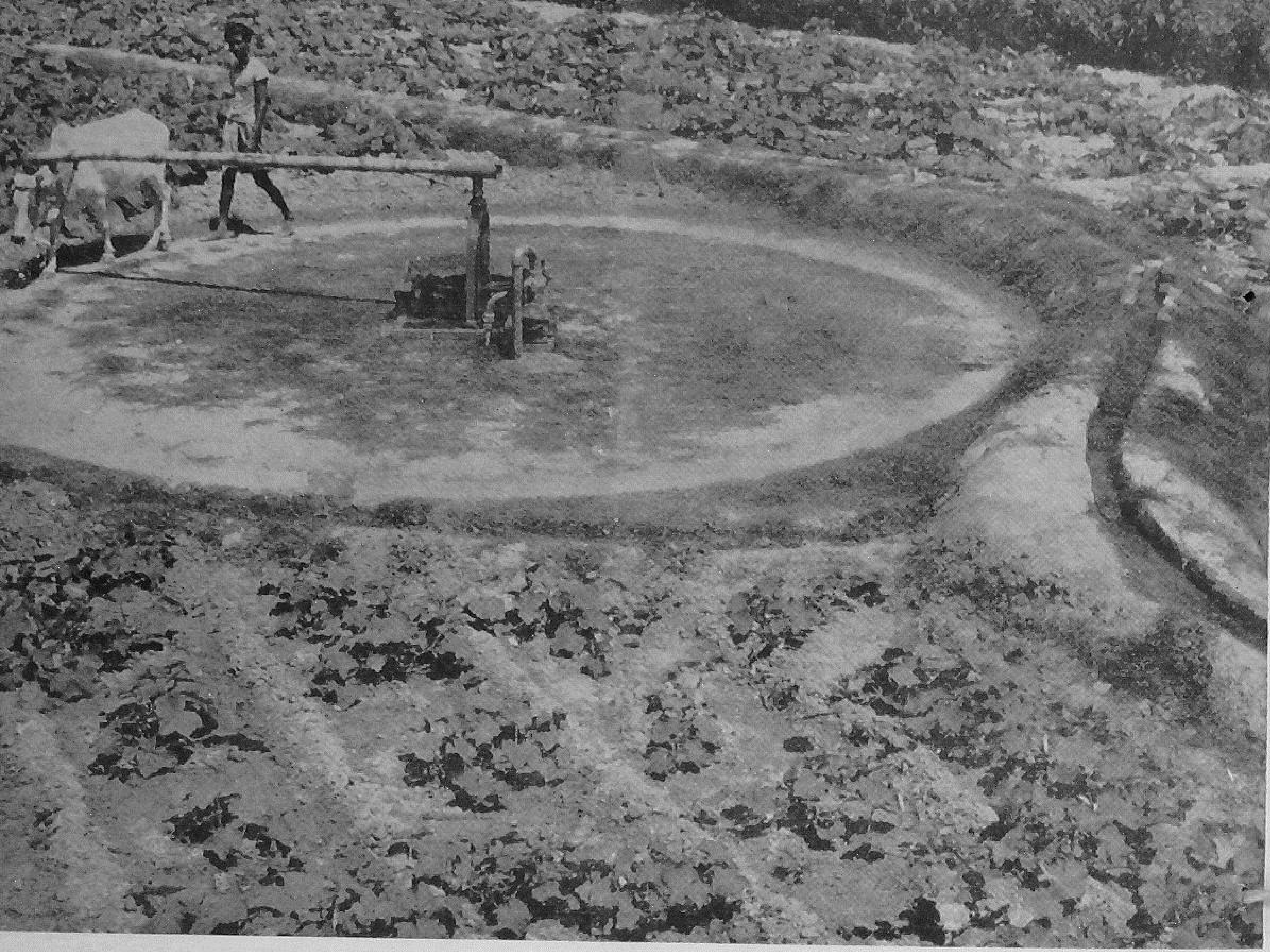


TOWARDS A BETTER TOMORROW

Gandhiji once said, "Today the villages are dung heaps. Tomorrow they will be like tiny gardens of Eden where dwell highly intelligent folk whom no one can deceive or exploit." To have those 'tiny gardens of Eden' all over the country, the Government of India undertook the task of rural upliftment immediately after independence.

The majority of our people live in the villages which produce the food for the nation. To bring prosperity in the villages the Community Development Programme has been launched all over the country. If increasing the productivity of the rural area is the primary aim, an equally important objective is to enable the rural population to cleanse the land of the decay of centuries and make it clean and beautiful, in fact to make the fertile earth a lovable earth too. Here a group of village children in Orissa is sweeping the country road near their homes.



Recently invented bullock-driven water pump for irrigation is under trial at Baruipur Block in West Bengal.

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